

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 11-21, 29, 31-37, 42, 44 and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter recited in these claims;

Please amend claims 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 38 and 41; and

Please add new claims 47-51 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a straw comprising:

a straw-supporting member having an elastically deformable retention arm which comprises a free end and at least another end;

the straw-supporting member comprising a first elastically deformable structure and a second elastically deformable structure, wherein the first elastically deformable structure enables movement of the retention arm in a first pivoting direction and the second elastically deformable structure enables movement of the retention arm in a second pivoting direction;

a body comprising a succession of deformable lips and one of a peripheral portion and an annular portion;

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the deformable lips being adapted to be peripherally sandwiched upon crimping of a cover onto a container;

the at least another end of the ~~elastically deformable~~ retention arm being connected to the body; and

the free end including a straw retaining mechanism,

wherein the device is adapted to be coupled to a container

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a retaining tube portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 22, wherein the ~~straw retaining mechanism~~ the straw-supporting member is made as a single piece.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 24, wherein ~~straw retaining mechanism~~ the straw-supporting member comprises an injected plastic material.

Claim 26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the deformable lips are adapted to be peripherally sandwiched between a crimping groove and an upper peripheral rim of the container.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw-supporting member ~~straw-retaining mechanism~~ further comprises an actuation arm that is adapted to be actuated and displaced during an opening of the container.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~29~~ 22, wherein the first pivoting direction comprises movement about a vertical pivoting axis, and the second pivoting direction comprises movement about a horizontal pivoting axis.

Claims 31-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a straw comprising:
a straw-supporting member having ~~an elastically deflectable~~ a retention arm which comprises a free end and at least another end;

the straw-supporting member comprising a first elastically deformable structure and a second elastically deformable structure, wherein the first elastically deformable structure enables movement of the retention arm in a first pivoting direction and the second elastically deformable structure enables movement of the retention arm in a second pivoting direction;

a body comprising one of a peripheral portion and an annular portion;

the body being configured to be arranged between a cover and a container;

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the at least another end of the ~~elastically deformable~~ retention arm being connected to the body;

the free end including a straw retaining mechanism; and

at least one of:

the body being a plastic body;

the body and the straw supporting member being a one-piece member; and

the body being securable to the container via the cover.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a retaining tube portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the body comprises a succession of deformable lips, whereby the deformable lips are adapted to be peripherally sandwiched upon crimping of a cover onto a container.

41. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw-supporting member ~~straw-retaining mechanism~~ further comprises an actuation arm that is adapted to be actuated and displaced during an opening of the container.

Claim 42 (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the body and the straw supporting member comprise a one-piece plastic member and wherein the body is securable to the container via the cover.

44. (Withdrawn) A method of coupling the device for extracting a straw of claim 38 to the container using the cover, the method comprising:

arranging the device for extracting a straw on an open end of the container; and
securing the device for extracting the straw to the container using the cover.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the body and the straw supporting member comprise a one-piece plastic member and wherein the body is securable to the container via the cover.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of coupling the device for extracting a straw of claim 22 to the container using the cover, the method comprising:

arranging the device for extracting a straw on an open end of the container; and
securing the device for extracting the straw to the container by deforming the deformable lips;
positioning the cover over the device for extracting the straw; and
mounting the cover onto to the container.

47. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the first pivoting direction comprises movement about a vertical pivoting axis, and the second pivoting direction comprises movement about a horizontal pivoting axis.

48. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw-supporting member comprises an intermediate member having a first side coupled to the second elastically deformable structure and a second side coupled to the first elastically deformable structure, wherein the intermediate member comprises a length which is greater than a length of the second elastically deformable structure.

49. (New) The device of claim 48, wherein the first pivoting direction comprises movement about a vertical pivoting axis, and the second pivoting direction comprises movement about a horizontal pivoting axis.

50. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw-supporting member comprises an intermediate member having a first side coupled to the second elastically deformable structure and a second side coupled to the first elastically deformable structure, wherein the intermediate member comprises a length which is greater than a length of the second elastically deformable structure.

51. (New) The device of claim 50, wherein the first pivoting direction comprises movement about a vertical pivoting axis, and the second pivoting direction comprises

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movement about a horizontal pivoting axis.